

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A friction stir welding method for supporting a stacked assembly (6) made up of a plurality of members (W1, W2) with a placement jig (116) which is inserted in an insertion recess (112) in a support jig (114) with a clearance (124) defined therebetween and which has a recess (132) defined in an upper end face thereof, and embedding a probe (8) of a friction stir welding tool (7) into an upper end face of said stacked assembly (6) to friction-stir-weld said stacked assembly (6), comprising the step of

displacing said support jig (114) in said insertion recess (112) in a direction to bring the center of said recess (132) of said placement jig (116) in a direction to bring the center of said recess into alignment with the center of said probe (8) when said probe (8) is rotated and embedded into the upper end face of said stacked assembly (6) toward said recess (132) of said placement jig (116) to friction-stir-weld said stacked assembly (6) over said recess (132).

6. (Currently Amended) A friction stir welding jig (140) for friction-stir-welding

a stacked assembly ~~(6)~~ made up of a plurality of members ~~(W1, W2)~~, comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a probe of a friction stir welding tool to friction-stir-weld said stacked assembly from an upper end face thereof;

a placement jig ~~(116)~~ having a recess ~~(132)~~ defined in an upper end face thereof, for placing said stacked assembly ~~(6)~~ thereon; and,

a support jig displacably supporting said placement jig in a direction to bring the center of said recess into alignment with the center of said probe~~(114) having an insertion recess (112) defined therein for inserting said placement jig (116) therein;~~  
and

\_\_\_\_\_ an elastic body (130) interposed between said support jig (114) and a portion of said placement jig (116) which is inserted in said insertion recess (112) with a clearance (124) defined therebetween.

Claims 7-10 (Cancelled)